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United Nations

Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues

Report on the seventeenth session (16–17 April 2018)

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Report on the seventeenth session
(16–27 April 2018)

United Nations • New York, 2018

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Chapter I

Matters calling for action by the Economic and Social Council or brought to its attention

A. Draft decisions recommended by the Permanent Forum for adoption by the Council

1. The Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues recommends to the Economic and Social Council the adoption of the following draft decisions:

Draft decision I
International expert group meeting on the theme "Conservation and the rights of indigenous peoples"

The Economic and Social Council decides to authorize a three-day international expert group meeting on the theme "Conservation and the rights of indigenous peoples".

Draft decision II
Venue and dates for the eighteenth session of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues

The Economic and Social Council decides that the eighteenth session of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues shall be held at United Nations Headquarters from 22 April to 3 May 2019.

Draft decision III
Report of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues on its seventeenth session and provisional agenda for its eighteenth session

The Economic and Social Council:

(a) Takes note of the report of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues on its seventeenth session;[1]

(b) Approves the provisional agenda for the eighteenth session of the Permanent Forum as set out below:

1. Election of officers.
2. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work.
3. Follow-up to the recommendations of the Permanent Forum.
4. Implementation of the six mandated areas of the Permanent Forum with reference to the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.
5. Discussion on the 2019 International Year of Indigenous Languages
6. Dialogue with indigenous peoples: collective rights to lands, territories and resources
7. Dialogue with Member States.

[1] *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2018, Supplement No. 23* (E/2018/43).

8. Dialogue with the funds, programmes and specialized agencies of the United Nations system.

9. Discussion on the theme "Traditional knowledge: generation, transmission and protection".

10. 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

11. Dialogue with the Special Rapporteur on the rights of indigenous peoples and the Chair of the Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

12. Follow-up to the outcome document of the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples:

(a) Implementation of national action plans, strategies and other measures;

(b) Ways to enhance the participation of indigenous peoples at the United Nations;

(c) Implementation of the United Nations system-wide action plan on indigenous peoples.

13. Regional dialogues between indigenous peoples and Member States.

14. Future work of the Permanent Forum, including issues considered by the Economic and Social Council and emerging issues.

15. Provisional agenda for the nineteenth session.

16. Adoption of the report of the Permanent Forum on its eighteenth session.

B. Matters brought to the attention of the Economic and Social Council

2. The Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues has identified the proposals, objectives, recommendations and areas of possible future action set out below and, through the Economic and Social Council, recommends that States, entities of the United Nations system, intergovernmental organizations, indigenous peoples, the private sector and non-governmental organizations assist in their realization.

3. It is the understanding of the secretariat of the Permanent Forum that those proposals, objectives, recommendations and areas of possible future action to be carried out by the United Nations, as set out below, will be implemented to the extent possible within the context of the approved programme of work of the relevant entities.

Recommendations of the Permanent Forum

Discussion on the theme "Indigenous peoples' collective rights to lands, territories and resources"

4. The rights to lands, territories and resources are at the heart of indigenous peoples' struggles around the world. Indigenous peoples' relationships to their ancestral lands are the source of their cultural, spiritual and social identity, the foundation upon which their traditional knowledge systems have developed and the cornerstone of their physical and economic well-being.

5. The United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples recognizes the right of indigenous peoples to self-determination (arts. 3–4), their collective rights to own and control their lands and resources (arts. 25–27), their right to free, prior and informed consent in relation to legislation, measures and projects that may have an impact on their rights (arts. 10–11, 19, 28–29 and 32) and their right to participate in decision-making processes (arts. 5, 18 and 27). These rights are further enshrined in the Indigenous and Tribal Peoples Convention, 1989 (No. 169) of the International Labour Organization and in expanding jurisprudence developed by human rights treaty bodies, the Inter-American Court of Human Rights and the African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights.

6. Positive developments have been achieved in setting international human rights standards for the rights of indigenous peoples to lands, territories and resources, including by regional human rights mechanisms in Africa and the Americas. The Permanent Forum welcomes those developments, including the recent decision of the African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights in the case of the Ogiek community in Kenya. The Forum encourages indigenous peoples and States to engage further with regional mechanisms and to implement their decisions effectively.

7. A number of States have recognized the collective rights of indigenous peoples to lands, territories and resources through constitutional or legal protection, adjudication, constructive agreements with indigenous peoples or administrative programmes. Countries that have taken steps in that direction include Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Canada, the Congo, Denmark, Ecuador, Indonesia, New Zealand (Aotearoa), Norway and the Philippines. In other countries, including Australia, Colombia and the United States of America, tracts of land and/or territories have been set aside for collective indigenous control. The Permanent Forum welcomes this progress, although there remains a wide gap between formal recognition and actual implementation.

8. In countries in which such rights are recognized, they are not fully implemented, or procedures for the implementation of those rights, such as land or resource mapping, demarcation and titling, have often not been completed, suffer significant delays or are shelved. The lack of enforcement of laws, as well as contradictory laws and regulations, frequently results in the de facto denial of the rights accorded to indigenous peoples. The Permanent Forum commends States for recognizing the collective rights of indigenous peoples to lands, territories and resources and at the same time urges them to take immediate steps for the implementation of those rights through programmes for mapping, titling or other actions and legislative reforms. The Forum urges States to report to it by its twentieth session on steps taken in that regard.

9. A majority of States have yet to grant official recognition to indigenous peoples, let alone their collective rights to lands, territories and resources. The Permanent Forum expresses its grave concern about the non-recognition of indigenous peoples, in particular in Africa and Asia, and recommends that States incorporate the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples into national legislation, policies and programmes.

10. The Permanent Forum stresses that ensuring the collective rights of indigenous peoples to lands, territories and resources is not only for their well-being, but also for addressing some of the most pressing global challenges, such as climate change and environmental degradation. Advancing those rights is an effective way to protect critical ecosystems, waterways and biological diversity.

11. The Permanent Forum emphasizes that achieving the Sustainable Development Goals is not possible without fulfilling the rights of indigenous peoples to lands, territories and resources. The Forum thus calls upon States to include the recognition of customary rights or tenure of indigenous peoples to their lands and resources under

target 3 of Sustainable Development Goal 2, which calls for secure and equal access to land.

12. The Permanent Forum calls on States, in consultation with indigenous peoples, to establish national judicial institutions tasked with identifying lands, waters, coastal waters and other resources to which the indigenous peoples concerned have established ownership and usufruct rights, and to demarcate such lands and resources.

13. The Permanent Forum draws attention to the number of reports, from around the world, of acts of intimidation and reprisal, including restrictions on the ability of representatives of indigenous peoples to attend the Forum's sessions. Indigenous leaders and human rights defenders face disproportionately high rates of intimidation and reprisal, as shown by various studies, including by the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights defenders.

14. Given that the United Nations relies on the cooperation of the people whom it serves and that everyone, individually and in association with others, has the right to unhindered access to and communication with the Organization, the Permanent Forum requests the Secretary-General, through the Assistant Secretary-General for Human Rights and in consultation with other relevant United Nations mechanisms, to report on trends related to intimidation and reprisals against indigenous peoples who seek to engage with the United Nations, including by providing suggestions to prevent and address reprisals through reporting from all parts of the United Nations system and with input from indigenous peoples, to the Forum at its eighteenth session, in 2019.[2]

15. The Permanent Forum continues to be concerned that the World Bank's new environmental and social safeguard 7 allows the conversion of the collective territories of indigenous peoples into individual ownership rights, even though it recognizes the importance of protecting the collective attachment of indigenous peoples to their lands. Providing funding for States to divide the lands of indigenous peoples generates conflict, irreparably harms livelihoods and traditional resource management strategies and erodes the governance structures of indigenous peoples. Paragraph 29 of environmental and social safeguard 7 should urgently be revised to ensure that indigenous peoples maintain their collective rights to lands, territories and resources in all projects funded by the Bank.

16. The Forum reiterates its request to the Inter-Agency Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal Indicators to make the land-related indicator operational, including on changing land use and the security of land tenure in the traditional territories of indigenous peoples.

17. The Permanent Forum urges all agencies, funds and programmes of the United Nations system to incorporate the recognition of the collective rights of indigenous peoples to lands, territories and resources into their policies and programmes at the country level and to report to the Forum on progress made at its eighteenth session.

18. The Permanent Forum expresses its concern for the indigenous peoples of certain African countries, who continue to be victims of violations of their rights to lands, territories and resources. Multiple threats and obstacles hinder their social, economic, political and legal development, including discrimination and marginalization; lack of rights to land and natural and productive resources; denial and lack of access to justice; violations of cultural rights; denial of the rights to legal recognition, political representation and participation; lack of access to basic social services; denial of the right to existence and self-development; violence against indigenous individuals and communities, including rape of indigenous women; and

[2] See www.ohchr.org/EN/Issues/Reprisals/Pages/ReprisalsIndex.aspx.

multiple-impact land conflicts arising from development and conservation projects that fail to take into account the rights and interests of indigenous peoples.

19. Recalling articles 3–4, 8, 18, 25–26 and 32 of the Declaration, the Permanent Forum urges African States to promote, recognize and protect the collective rights of indigenous peoples to their lands, territories and resources through the development of mechanisms to ensure the legal recognition of land and resource rights, the resolution of land disputes, fair and equitable redress, and the creation of permanent dialogue frameworks to facilitate political participation and representation of indigenous peoples in decision-making.

20. The Permanent Forum urges States to provide information to it on developments relating to the collective rights of indigenous peoples and constructive agreements with indigenous peoples at its eighteenth session, including the following:

(a) Effective measures taken to halt land alienation in the territories of indigenous peoples;

(b) Financial and technical assistance provided to indigenous peoples to map the boundaries of their communal lands;

(c) Legal and policy frameworks that have been implemented for the registration of collective titles;

(d) National legislation adopted with the free, prior and informed consent of indigenous peoples when such legislation involves their territories, lands and natural resources.

21. The Permanent Forum requests all States to include developments relating to the rights of indigenous peoples in their regular reports to the Human Rights Council under the universal periodic review mechanism.

International expert group meeting on the theme "Sustainable development in the territories of indigenous peoples"

22. Based on a recommendation of the Permanent Forum, the United Nations organized an international expert group meeting on the theme "Sustainable development in the territories of indigenous peoples" in January 2018. The meeting recommended that the Forum should give special consideration to the experience of indigenous peoples with autonomy and constructive arrangements in their expression of self-determination, including through a compilation and dissemination of good practices.

23. The expert group meeting further recommended that the Permanent Forum should explore opportunities to work with and support indigenous peoples' mechanisms that engage with international processes, such as the indigenous peoples major group (2030 Agenda), the International Indigenous Peoples' Forum on Climate Change (United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change) and the International Indigenous Forum on Biodiversity (Convention on Biological Diversity). These are key engagement mechanisms to ensure the inclusion of indigenous peoples and their contribution in key global decision-making processes which could be strengthened through enhanced engagement with the Permanent Forum at its annual sessions and throughout the year.

Conservation and the rights of indigenous peoples

24. The Permanent Forum expresses concern that conservation programmes based on the concept of excluding human beings from the environment have had negative consequences on the rights of indigenous peoples through forced evictions and other

harms, while their natural custodianship of the environment and ecosystems has been unrecognized.

25. The Permanent Forum urges the International Union for Conservation of Nature and the secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity to undertake, in collaboration with indigenous peoples, a study on the contributions of indigenous peoples to the management of ecosystems and the protection of biodiversity, and submit a report to the Forum by its nineteenth session.

26. The Permanent Forum recommends that the secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity and the International Union for Conservation of Nature actively engage with indigenous organizations, relevant United Nations entities, non-governmental organizations and other actors to develop a set of actions and commitments in relation to conservation and human rights in the context of the post-2020 biodiversity framework and the next World Conservation Congress.

27. The Permanent Forum requests the Global Environment Facility, as well as other funding mechanisms, to prioritize support for conservation approaches that are led or co-managed by indigenous peoples.

28. The Permanent Forum calls on States to enter into discussions with indigenous peoples whose traditional lands are now incorporated in protected areas, with a view to reaching binding agreements that will not only acknowledge the legitimate interests of wildlife conservation but also recognize and guarantee the rights of those communities under articles 8 (2), 18, 19, 26 and 32 of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

29. The Permanent Forum calls on international donors to engage in dialogue with indigenous peoples with the aim of developing an approach to conservation based on recognition of and respect for the rights of indigenous peoples.

30. The Permanent Forum invites the Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and the Special Rapporteur on the rights of indigenous peoples to strengthen collaboration in charting ways forward in promoting conservation models that recognize and respect the rights of indigenous peoples.

31. The Permanent Forum invites the Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, at its forthcoming meeting on transitional justice, to examine opportunities for restitution in the context of historic conservation-related evictions and other harms.

32. The Permanent Forum urges Member States to reform the agreements of intergovernmental conservation organizations, such as the North Atlantic Salmon Conservation Organization, to comply with the principles of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

Implementation of the six mandated areas of the Permanent Forum with reference to the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples

2019 International Year of Indigenous Languages

33. The Permanent Forum welcomes the work carried out by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) in preparation for the 2019 International Year of Indigenous Languages and welcomes and supports the action plan for the International Year that was developed in cooperation with Member States, the Forum, the Special Rapporteur on the rights of indigenous peoples and the Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, as well as indigenous peoples and a range of different stakeholders. The Forum calls upon Member States to implement the action plan in partnership with indigenous peoples, respecting the

principle of "nothing about us without us", including the establishment of national steering committees and national action plans for the International Year. States should allocate adequate funding for the successful implementation of the International Year.

34. The Permanent Forum recommends that indigenous peoples, as the rightful owners and custodians of their own languages, initiate and develop their own action plans and appropriate measures for the International Year and awareness-raising campaigns to draw attention to the situation of indigenous languages.

35. The Permanent Forum invites the General Assembly to request that UNESCO report on activities carried out during the International Year, and subsequent impacts and follow-up activities after 2019, at its seventy-fifth session.

36. The Permanent Forum recommends that UNESCO, in active collaboration with other relevant United Nations entities, organize as a major event of the International Year a world conference or high-level event on indigenous languages, which would be preceded by regional conferences, and encourages Member States to support its organization. The Forum emphasizes that all events organized to mark the International Year must include the full and effective participation of indigenous peoples.

37. The Permanent Forum recommends that United Nations entities, including the Inter-Agency Support Group on Indigenous Peoples' Issues, take effective measures to support the promotion of indigenous languages and the successful implementation of the goals and objectives of the International Year, including in activities related to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the system-wide action plan on the rights of indigenous peoples, the celebration of international days and other processes.

38. The Permanent Forum urges the Secretary-General to appoint a special envoy on indigenous languages, in consultation with indigenous peoples.

39. The Permanent Forum urges Member States to establish permanent financing structures for ensuring the protection of the language initiatives of indigenous peoples, such as the Giellagáldu project in Finland, Norway and Sweden.

Women, youth and children

40. The Permanent Forum recommends that the Commission on the Status of Women organize a high-level interactive dialogue on the rights of indigenous women, to coincide with the twenty-fifth anniversary of the Fourth World Conference on Women, in 2020, to review progress made towards the Sustainable Development Goals with a focus on linkages with the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. The Forum invites Member States, in cooperation with indigenous peoples' organizations and with the support of the United Nations system, to conduct preparatory processes, with the full and effective participation of indigenous women of all ages.

41. The Permanent Forum expresses considerable concern with the disparity between indigenous and national maternal mortality rates in many countries and encourages Member States to incorporate an intercultural approach to sexual and reproductive health services and promoting the inclusion of indigenous health workers. The Permanent Forum invites Member States to seek the support of the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and other relevant agencies, funds and programmes of the United Nations system in taking forward this recommendation and in strengthening the disaggregation of data by ethnicity, in the area of sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights, in the 2020 census round to strengthen the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

42. The Permanent Forum recommends that agencies, funds and programmes of the United Nations system, in collaboration with indigenous peoples' organizations, monitor the high levels of global violence and threats directed at indigenous women human rights defenders. The Forum calls for an immediate halt to the criminalization, incarceration, intimidation, coercion and assassination of, and death threats to, all indigenous human and environmental rights defenders.

43. The Permanent Forum calls for the implementation on the Convention on the Rights of the Child, which gives clear guidance to States on the need for them to minimize childhood exposure to toxic chemicals through water, food, air and other sources of exposure. It is critical that environmental regulators be educated specifically regarding article 24 of the Convention.

Health

44. Existing conventions governing the use and disposal of toxic chemicals and wastes do not adequately protect the rights of the world's most vulnerable, including indigenous peoples, who disproportionately suffer from their indiscriminate and irresponsible use.

45. The Permanent Forum welcomes the preliminary report of the Special Rapporteur on the implications for human rights of the environmentally sound management and disposal of hazardous substances and wastes, which was presented at the current session, in accordance with recommendation 46 of the Forum at its sixteenth session, and invites the Special Rapporteur to present his final report to the Forum at its eighteenth session.

46. The Forum recommends that the International Conference on Chemicals Management establish an advisory committee of indigenous peoples in its intersessional process for considering the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management and the sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020.

47. The Forum recommends the creation of a global, legally binding regime for toxic industrial chemicals and hazardous pesticides, the vast majority of which are currently unregulated under existing conventions, to protect the rights of everyone, including indigenous peoples, from the grave threats to human rights presented by the ongoing chemical intensification of the global economy. Such a regime should have strong accountability and compliance mechanisms and be in conformity with international human rights standards, including the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

48. The Permanent Forum welcomes the adoption, in 2017, of the first policy on ethnicity and health by the States members of the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) and invites the World Health Organization (WHO) to follow this initiative and expand on this work at the global level. The Forum also notes the initiative of PAHO/WHO to develop a strategy and plan of action on ethnicity and health for the Americas, the implementation of a health plan for indigenous youth in Latin America and the launch of the Virtual Health Library on Traditional, Complementary and Integrative Medicine for the Americas, and invites PAHO/WHO to report to the Forum at its eighteenth session on progress achieved.

49. The cultural and clinical knowledge of traditional indigenous midwives and their contributions to the well-being and positive health outcomes of indigenous peoples are largely unacknowledged in national health systems. Indigenous midwives work tirelessly to improve maternal and infant health throughout a person's reproductive life cycle and, in particular, during pregnancy, birth and the post-partum period.

50. Despite this critical role, community-regulated indigenous midwifery is often undermined and actively criminalized, to the detriment of the health of indigenous peoples. To close the gap between indigenous and non-indigenous health outcomes, the practice of indigenous midwifery must be supported by state health policy and integration. The right of indigenous peoples to self-determination extends to their reproductive health, and States should put an end to the criminalization of indigenous midwifery and make the necessary legislative and regulatory amendments to legitimize indigenous midwives who are recognized by their communities as health-care providers. States should also support the education of new traditional indigenous midwives via multiple routes of education, including apprenticeships and the oral transmission of knowledge.

51. The Permanent Forum reiterates previous recommendations that WHO, the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and UNFPA, as well as regional health organizations and Governments, fully incorporate a cultural perspective into health policies and programmes and reproductive health services aimed at providing indigenous women with quality health care, including emergency obstetric care, voluntary family planning and skilled attendance at birth. The roles of traditional midwives should be re-evaluated and expanded so that they may assist indigenous women during their reproductive health processes and act as cultural brokers between health systems and indigenous peoples.

52. The Permanent Forum recommends that the WHO End TB Strategy and the Global Partnership to Stop Tuberculosis, in collaboration with UNFPA, PAHO and the Inter-Agency Support Group on Indigenous Peoples' Issues, organize an expert group meeting on tuberculosis by 2020 to analyse the sociocultural and economic determinants of health for the prevention, care and treatment of tuberculosis in indigenous communities, with the cooperation of the Forum, in order to ensure the realization of target 3 of Sustainable Development Goal 3. The Forum also recommends the review of the Moscow Declaration to End TB, which considers indigenous peoples to be disproportionately affected by tuberculosis.

53. The Permanent Forum appreciates the steps taken by the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS, UNFPA and the Inter-Agency Support Group on Indigenous Peoples' Issues for the organization of an international workshop on indigenous peoples and HIV/AIDS, and calls on Member States and United Nations entities to contribute to the workshop.

54. The Permanent Forum is concerned that, across the globe, indigenous women and adolescents face persistent inequalities and stigma, especially in relation to maternal health and maternal mortality, yet the lack of data in this area renders them invisible and presents a major barrier to efforts to address the issue. Indigenous women are overwhelmingly less likely to have received health-care services. Indigenous women are three times more likely to have had no antenatal care and twice as likely to give birth without a skilled birth attendant, and have a significantly higher adolescent birth rate. This is directly related to the poverty, discrimination and marginalization that indigenous women frequently face.

55. The Permanent Forum welcomes the study presented by UNFPA, in collaboration with CHIRAPAQ (Centro de Culturas Indígenas del Perú), entitled "Progress and challenges regarding the recommendations of the Forum on sexual and reproductive health and rights and gender-based violence".

56. The Permanent Forum invites UNFPA to make efforts to disseminate the findings of the study at the global, regional and country levels among Member States, United Nations mechanisms and indigenous organizations. The Forum also invites UNFPA to engage in concerted dialogue with the nine Member States that were part

of the study on next steps to put into action the recommendations of the study, and to report to the Forum at its eighteenth session on progress made.

Culture

57. The Permanent Forum encourages UNESCO, States, the Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and indigenous peoples to continue to engage in active dialogue aimed at achieving recognition of the rights of indigenous peoples to repatriation of their human remains and sacred items, in accordance with the outcome document of the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples and articles 11 and 12 of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. The Forum reiterates its call for a new United Nations mechanism for international repatriation.

58. The Permanent Forum is concerned that the WIPO Voluntary Fund for Accredited Indigenous and Local Communities is depleted, and emphasizes the critical importance of the full and effective participation of indigenous peoples and local communities in the negotiations of the WIPO Intergovernmental Committee on Intellectual Property and Genetic Resources, Traditional Knowledge and Folklore in accordance with article 41 of the Declaration. To that end, the Forum strongly encourages the Member States of WIPO to contribute to the WIPO Voluntary Fund and invites them to explore and identify innovative ways of raising funds for the Fund, including through use of the regular budget of WIPO. The Forum also recommends that WIPO increase the number of indigenous participants through the regular budget and allow their full and effective participation in the negotiations.

Environment

59. The Permanent Forum heard from many indigenous peoples who expressed their concern regarding States granting concessions for extractive industries, infrastructure projects, large-scale agriculture or hydroelectric dams without the free, prior and informed consent of indigenous peoples. This has led to inevitable social, economic and cultural conflicts between governments and indigenous peoples such as those concerning the Arctic Railway in Finland. The Forum reiterates that the Member States must act in compliance with international human rights standards, including through adequate consultations with affected indigenous peoples, respecting the right to their free, prior and informed consent at all stages while also ensuring mitigation measures, compensation and fair and equitable benefit-sharing.

60. The Permanent Forum reiterates its concern over environmental violence, in particular the pervasive impacts of such violence on indigenous women and girls. The Forum takes note with appreciation of the recommendations from the third International Indigenous Women's Symposium on Environment and Reproductive Health, held at Columbia University in New York on 14 and 15 April 2018. The Forum recommends that members of the Inter-Agency Support Group on Indigenous Peoples' Issues and the relevant special procedures of the Human Rights Council consider ways to address and incorporate the recommendations from that Symposium.

Dialogue with the Special Rapporteur on the rights of indigenous peoples and the Chair of the Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples

61. Human rights defenders are increasingly targeted as terrorists for promoting and protecting decades-old guaranteed rights. This alarming trend is seen in every region. Even the Special Rapporteur on the rights of indigenous peoples, Victoria Tauli-Corpuz; former expert member of the Permanent Forum Joan Carling; and former member of the Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples José Molintas, have been declared terrorists in a petition by the Government of the Philippines. The Forum rejects this dangerous precedent and calls on the Government of the

Philippines to remove their names, and the names of other indigenous leaders, from the petition and to ensure their safety as they continue promoting and protecting the rights of indigenous peoples. Further, the Forum urges the Government of the Philippines to repeal the Human Security Act, comply with its international human rights obligations and pursue its commitments under the Comprehensive Agreement on Respect for Human Rights and International Humanitarian Law.

62. The Permanent Forum recommends that relevant special procedures of the Human Rights Council collaborate with each other and with other human rights bodies to address the situation of indigenous human rights defenders through monitoring, mediation, analysis and the provision of concrete recommendations for the effective protection of indigenous human rights defenders.

63. The Permanent Forum requests the Assistant Secretary-General for Human Rights, with the support of the secretariat of the Forum, to expand and strengthen the United Nations response to reprisals and threats faced by indigenous human rights and environmental defenders by enhancing high-level engagement on reprisals, ensuring appropriate action on urgent cases when reprisals occur.

64. The Permanent Forum welcomes the participation, at its seventeenth session, of the Working Group on the use of mercenaries as a means of violating human rights and impeding the exercise of the right of peoples to self-determination and invites the Working Group to conduct a study on private militaries and security companies in extractive industries and agribusiness and their impact on the human and collective rights of indigenous peoples.

65. The Permanent Forum takes note with concern of the situation of indigenous peoples of the Sahel and other parts of Africa, where a number of factors, including climate change, are having a devastating impact on economic development and human security. The lack of recognition of the collective rights of these peoples has created fertile ground for their loss of territories and resources and the emergence of complex forms of conflict, including violent extremism. The Forum calls on the Working Group on Indigenous Populations/Communities in Africa of the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights to prepare recommendations for the consideration of the African Union to address this situation, in partnership with the Economic Commission for Africa and other regional bodies.

66. The Permanent Forum urges Member States to pay special attention to indigenous peoples residing in cross-border areas, in accordance with article 36 of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, and invites academia, in consultation with the Permanent Forum, to convene a conference on indigenous peoples divided by international borders. The Forum invites the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights to initiate a general comment on the collective rights of indigenous peoples to lands, territories and natural resources.

67. The Permanent Forum urges the Governments of Colombia and Ecuador to take immediate action to protect the indigenous peoples whose territories are in the border area between the two countries. The Forum encourages the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and the Special Rapporteur on the rights of indigenous peoples to work with the two Governments to address this situation in close cooperation with the indigenous communities concerned.

68. The Permanent Forum reiterates its call to Member States to establish mechanisms and processes for comprehensive dialogue and consultations with indigenous peoples in order to obtain their free, prior and informed consent in relation to any project that will have an impact on their territories and resources. In this regard, the Forum expresses concern regarding the lack of consultation by the Government of the Plurinational State of Bolivia with the indigenous peoples who will be affected

by the mega-hydroelectric project of El Bala-Chepete and Rositas, including the Guarani, Mosetén, Tacana, Tsimané, Leco, Ese Ejja and Uchupiamona peoples. The Forum urges the Government of the Plurinational State of Bolivia to respect the fundamental rights of indigenous peoples and ensure that they are able to exercise their rights in accordance with international human rights standards.

69. Recalling the recommendations made by the Special Rapporteur appointed to undertake a study on the status of implementation of the Chittagong Hill Tracts Accord of 1997 (E/C.19/2011/6, sect. VIII), the Forum encourages the Government of Bangladesh:

(a) To set a time frame for the full implementation of the Accord, including devolution of authority to the Chittagong Hill Tracts Regional Council and three Hill District Councils;

(b) To adopt the rules of business for the Chittagong Hill Tracts Land Commission and allocate sufficient human and financial resources for the Commission.

Follow-up to the outcome document of the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples

70. The Permanent Forum regrets that the General Assembly did not establish a new category of participation for indigenous peoples. Nevertheless, the Forum acknowledges the progress made in the implementation of the outcome document of the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples and recognizes the need to further advance the priorities clearly set out by indigenous peoples in the Alta outcome document.

71. The Permanent Forum acknowledges the ongoing consultation process to enhance the participation of indigenous peoples at the United Nations under the leadership of the President of the General Assembly and takes note of Assembly resolution 71/321, which lays out a process for continuing the consideration of the participation of indigenous peoples at the United Nations.

72. The Permanent Forum welcomes the process of the President of the General Assembly of organizing and presiding over informal interactive hearings during the seventy-second, seventy-third and seventy-fourth sessions of the Assembly, on the margins of the sessions of the Forum, to enhance the participation of representatives and institutions of indigenous peoples in meetings of relevant United Nations bodies on issues affecting them, as requested by the General Assembly in its resolution 71/321.

73. The Permanent Forum urges the Secretary-General to convene, in consultation with the Forum and before its eighteenth session, regional consultations in each of the seven indigenous regions to discuss the modalities for the participation of indigenous people at the United Nations, including how the participation of indigenous representatives can be enhanced. The Forum urges Member States to support the organization of these regional consultations.

74. The Permanent Forum, recognizing that indigenous peoples can contribute greatly a range of issues on the international agenda, encourages the President of the General Assembly to consider inviting representatives of indigenous peoples to other hearings and events.

75. The Permanent Forum appreciates the efforts made by El Salvador, Guatemala and Paraguay to develop national action plans in consultation with indigenous peoples and encourages them to share best practices. It further encourages Member States to continue to effectively engage with indigenous peoples at the national, local and

community levels to develop and implement national action plans, strategies or other measures to achieve the ends of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

76. The Permanent Forum welcomes the work done by the United Nations system to implement the United Nations system-wide action plan on the rights of indigenous peoples and encourages United Nations country teams to facilitate dialogue between Member States and indigenous peoples towards the development of national action plans and other measures and to report to the Forum at its eighteenth session on progress made.

77. The Permanent Forum welcomes the Ibero-American Plan of Action for the Implementation of the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, adopted in April 2018 by indigenous peoples and States as members of the Fund for the Development of Indigenous Peoples of Latin America and the Caribbean. The Forum encourages the Fund to share its experiences in other regions of the world.

2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

78. The 2030 Agenda is now in its third year of implementation. The Permanent Forum reiterates that countries undergoing voluntary national reviews at the high-level political forum on sustainable development should include indigenous peoples in their reviews, reports and delegations and invites States to report on good practices to the Forum at its eighteenth session.

79. Further, the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goal on ensuring access to affordable and modern energy for all (Goal 7) is posing threats as well as providing opportunities for indigenous peoples. The Permanent Forum encourages States to work with indigenous peoples to develop guidelines for responsible renewable energy development.

Dialogues with indigenous peoples, Member States and the funds, programmes and specialized agencies of the United Nations system

80. The Permanent Forum conducted three focused, interactive dialogue sessions with indigenous peoples, Member States and the funds, programmes and specialized agencies of the United Nations system. Such dialogues provide an opportunity to focus on specific issues and identify ways to increase the effectiveness of the work of the Forum. The Forum finds these dialogues to be of great value and will continue to conduct them at future sessions.

81. The dialogues included discussions on the criminalization of the actions of indigenous human rights defenders; the lack of consultations to obtain the free, prior and informed consent of indigenous peoples; the need for effective engagement of indigenous peoples in the 2030 Agenda; violence and discrimination against indigenous women, children, youth, older persons and persons with disabilities; and the urgent need to revitalize indigenous languages.

82. The members of the Forum extend their deepest condolences to the family of Colten Boushie and express heartfelt gratitude for their presence at the Forum session.

83. The Permanent Forum congratulates the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) for its ongoing work with indigenous peoples, including the operationalization of free, prior and informed consent in its funded projects, support for national policy dialogues among indigenous peoples, governments and United Nations country teams and adoption of data disaggregation for indigenous peoples in its revised Results and Impact Management System.[3] The Forum encourages the Fund

[3] Available from https://webapps.ifad.org/members/ec/96/docs/EC-2017-96-W-P-7.pdf

to develop specific indicators on the well-being of indigenous peoples, to be applied in its funded projects. The Forum urges IFAD to ensure that its high standards and safeguards are applied to its co-funded projects initiated by institutions that invest in large infrastructure.

84. The Permanent Forum requests that entities, agencies, funds and programmes of the United Nations system allocate relevant financial and human resources to carry out commitments to indigenous peoples, as per the system-wide action plan on the rights of indigenous peoples and respective strategic plans and programmes and to provide information to the Forum about the allocation of such resources at its annual sessions.

85. The Permanent Forum welcomes the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women) strategy of inclusion and visibility of indigenous women, which responds to the system-wide action plan on the rights of indigenous peoples and the recommendation of the Forum (E/2014/43/Corr.1-E/C.19/2014/11/Corr.1, para. 35) on including the priorities of indigenous women in global, regional and national programmes. The Forum encourages Member States to allocate sufficient funding for the implementation of the strategy. The Forum encourages UN-Women to emphasize enhancing the participation and capacities of indigenous young women and girls and to report on progress made to the Forum at its eighteenth session.

86. The Permanent Forum reiterates its previous recommendations to UNICEF to adopt a policy on indigenous peoples in consultation with indigenous peoples without delay.

Regional dialogues with indigenous peoples and Member States

87. In an effort to increase the effectiveness of its work and to engage in deeper dialogue on issues of concern to indigenous peoples in the different regions, the Permanent Forum held six regional dialogues between the Forum, indigenous peoples and Member States. Forum members, as well as indigenous participants and States, expressed support for the initiative, which the Forum intends to continue in future sessions.

88. The dialogues provided an opportunity to discuss the main challenges and opportunities related to advancing the rights of indigenous peoples in the region. There was agreement upon the need to strengthen regional spaces for coordination and to link regional processes and the priorities of indigenous peoples with the ongoing global processes.

Africa

89. Indigenous peoples requested that Member States and the United Nations system financially support a multi-stakeholder regional consultation process for indigenous peoples' organizations (in the form of an African regional peoples' fund) to share knowledge and best practices and develop a road map of common issues for indigenous peoples in Africa.

90. Participants urged indigenous peoples, Member States, UNESCO and other United Nations agencies, programmes and funds and other relevant actors to promote the 2019 International Year of Indigenous Languages at the African regional and subregional level.

Arctic, Eastern Europe, Russian Federation, Central Asia and Transcaucasia

91. The Permanent Forum reiterates its recommendation from 2015 to the Arctic Council and requests all Arctic governments to adopt a comprehensive and long-term

strategy for resource extraction in the Arctic region that includes free, prior and informed consent of indigenous peoples to development projects on their lands and territories or involving their resources. The Forum requests the Arctic Council to provide information on the progress made in the implementation of the recommendation in conjunction with indigenous peoples.

92. The Permanent Forum appeals to governments in the Arctic, Eastern Europe, the Russian Federation, Central Asia and Transcaucasia to give financial and political support to their indigenous peoples to play an active role in the implementation of the 2019 International Year of Indigenous Languages, including for indigenous peoples and experts to meet at conferences and other relevant regional meetings and events.

93. Recalling paragraph 40 of its report on its sixteenth session (E/2017/43-E/C.19/2017/11), the Permanent Forum calls on Governments in the Arctic, Eastern Europe, the Russian Federation, Central Asia and Transcaucasia, along with academics, to take appropriate measures to introduce the endangered languages of their regions into educational practices and include the learning of those languages in curricula at all levels of educational system, when requested by indigenous people.

94. The Permanent Forum urges Governments in the Arctic, Eastern Europe, the Russian Federation, Central Asia and Transcaucasia to fully implement the relevant international obligations related to environmental and social safeguards to assure the conservation of nature and access to natural resources for indigenous peoples within their territories in accordance with Sustainable Development Goals 12, 14 and 15.

Asia

95. The Permanent Forum expresses appreciation for Nepal being the only Asian country to ratify the Indigenous and Tribal Peoples Convention, 1989 (No. 169), in 2007. Nevertheless, it is concerning that, even 10 years after ratification, the Government has not adopted a national action plan to implement the Convention. The Forum recommends that Nepal immediately adopt a national action plan, including in line with its commitment in the outcome document of the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples. The Forum urges other Asian States to consider ratifying the Convention as per the recommendations made by treaty bodies and in the universal periodic review.

96. The Permanent Forum recalls and stresses its earlier recommendation that the Intergovernmental Commission on Human Rights of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) recognize the human rights of indigenous peoples in the ASEAN region and establish a working group on indigenous peoples. In addition, the Forum urges the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation to establish a human rights commission and a working group on indigenous peoples.

97. The Permanent Forum invites the Economic and Social Council to further enhance the participation of national human rights institutions compliant with the Paris principles relating to the status of national institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights in the sessions of the Forum and to allow for their contribution to the sessions, bearing in mind the relevant provisions dealing with their participation contained in General Assembly resolution 60/251 of 15 March 2006, Human Rights Council resolutions 5/1, 5/2 and 16/21 and Commission on Human Rights resolution 2005/74.[4]

[4] See General Assembly resolution 72/181, para. 16.

Pacific

98. The loss of capacity to maintain subsistence livelihoods of island populations in the region leads to social stress and disadvantage, including substance abuse and domestic violence. The remote locations of many islands of the region can result in poor or limited access to health and education institutions, as well as transport and communications.

99. The Permanent Forum expresses concern at the high numbers of imprisoned indigenous people in the Pacific region, including in Australia, New Zealand and Hawaii, United States.

100. The Pacific is the region that is most vulnerable to climate change. Indigenous peoples can contribute to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals and act as stewards of their traditional lands, yet they receive little attention from their Governments and the global community. While most small island developing States in the region support the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and are implementing Agenda 2030, progress in the Pacific is lagging far behind.

Central and South America and the Caribbean

101. The main concerns expressed in this dialogue included the implementation gap between the progress made in institutional, legislative and policy frameworks within the region and the effective measures taken by the Governments; the criminalization of protest and the persecution and killings of defenders of the collective rights of indigenous peoples; the lack of consultations to obtain the free, prior and informed consent of indigenous peoples, especially in the context of disputes over land rights, the expansion of extractive industries and agroindustry; and the alarming levels of violence against indigenous women, youth and children, including sexual abuse of indigenous children in educational contexts and increased femicide in the region.

102. The 2030 Agenda and the upcoming 2020 census round, as well as the International Year of Indigenous Languages, are opportunities to achieve progress on the implementation of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. These processes must guarantee the full and effective participation of indigenous peoples at all levels. The Permanent Forum recognizes the need to enhance the participation of the indigenous peoples of the Caribbean, including indigenous women and youth.

North America

103. The Permanent Forum welcomes the constructive dialogue between the indigenous peoples and Member States in North America on border-crossing issues (honouring the Jay Treaty, the North American Free Trade Agreement and cross-border pipelines), the designation of 2019 as the International Year of Indigenous Languages and the creation of space for indigenous youth to participate in the processes of the Forum. The Forum notes the recent second meeting of the North American Working Group on Violence Against Indigenous Women and Girls and encourages Canada, Mexico and the United States to develop a trilateral initiative on transboundary issues of concern to indigenous peoples.

104. Indigenous peoples expressed concern over the development projects and disrespect by corporations of indigenous lands, territories and resources in their development and implementation of extraction projects connected to the Sustainable Development Goals, including in the insular territories of indigenous peoples.

105. The Permanent Forum encourages States to directly reference and incorporate into their negotiation policies and frameworks for treaties, agreements and other constructive arrangements the implementation of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, and mechanisms for free, prior and informed consent.

Future work of the Permanent Forum, including issues considered by the Economic and Social Council and emerging issues

106. The Permanent Forum welcomes publication of *Local Biodiversity Outlooks*, as a collaborative effort of the International Indigenous Forum on Biodiversity, the Forest Peoples Programme and the secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity, and looks forward to its second edition, to be published in 2020.

107. The Permanent Forum supports the strengthening and further application of community-based mapping, monitoring and information systems as complementary evidence bases for assessment and monitoring of the 2030 Agenda, the Paris Agreement and the post-2020 biodiversity framework, and as tools for community governance and self-determined development.

108. The Permanent Forum urges Governments and donors to support community-based monitoring and information systems, citizen science and the democratization of information technologies, as complementary to national and global statistical and information systems, and to prioritize capacity-building and funding and for such initiatives.

109. The Permanent Forum welcomes the approval of the approach to recognizing and working with indigenous and local knowledge adopted at the fifth plenary of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services, in 2017, and the establishment of a participatory mechanism for indigenous peoples and local communities in the work of the Platform. The Forum urges the identification of procedures and methodologies for effective implementation of the approach and the participatory mechanism, in partnership with indigenous peoples.

110. The Permanent Forum congratulates the Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations (FAO) for its work to assist indigenous peoples and States in the implementation of the Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests in the Context of National Food Security, and for the issuance of a technical guide on commons and communal lands and resources. The Forum encourages FAO to continue enhancing the implementation of the Voluntary Guidelines with tailored capacity development for indigenous peoples.

111. The Permanent Forum recommends that FAO create a technical working group on the collective rights of indigenous peoples to lands, territories and resources, which will provide technical outputs and publications informing indigenous peoples and the Forum.

112. The Permanent Forum requests FAO to enhance the participation of indigenous peoples and representatives from the Forum in the work of the Committee on Agriculture, the Committee on Forestry, the Committee on Fisheries, the Committee on World Food Security and the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture.

113. The Permanent Forum welcomes the adoption by the Green Climate Fund of the Indigenous Peoples Policy and the Environmental and Social Policy, as well as the establishment of the Indigenous Peoples Advisory Group by the Fund, and encourages the Fund to support specific capacity-building programmes for indigenous peoples as part of the readiness and preparatory programme to ensure their full and effective engagement with the Fund at all levels and in all activities.

114. The Permanent Forum appoints Brian Keane and Elifuraha Laltaika, members of the Forum, to conduct a study on the implementation of judicial decisions related to indigenous peoples and to present that study at to the Forum at its eighteenth session, in 2019.

115. The Permanent Forum appoints Mariam Wallet Mohamed Aboubakrine, member of the Forum, to conduct a study on tuberculosis and indigenous peoples and to present that study to the Forum at its eighteenth session, in 2019.

116. The Permanent Forum appoints Terri Henry, member of the Forum, to conduct a study on the representative institutions of indigenous peoples and their relationship with national and local governments, and to present that study to the Forum at its eighteenth session, in 2019.

117. The Permanent Forum expresses its appreciation to the Government of the Plurinational State of Bolivia and organizations of indigenous peoples for the support provided to hold the pre-sessional meeting for the eighteenth session of the Forum in Sucre from 25 February to 2 March 2018. The Forum calls upon States to propose and host the preliminary sessions of the Forum in the future.

Chapter II
Venue, dates and proceedings of the session

118. By its decision 2017/248, the Economic and Social Council decided that the seventeenth session of the Permanent Forum would be held at United Nations Headquarters from 16 to 27 April 2018.

119. At its 2nd meeting, on 16 April, the Permanent Forum considered agenda item 3, entitled "Follow-up to the recommendations of the Permanent Forum". For its consideration of the item, the Forum had before it two notes by the Secretariat entitled "Compilation of information received from United Nations system entities and other intergovernmental bodies on progress in the implementation of the recommendations of the Permanent Forum" (E/C.19/2018/3) and "Compilation of information received from indigenous peoples' organizations" (E/C.19/2018/4).

120. At its 2nd meeting, on 16 April, and its 7th and 8th meetings, on 19 April, the Forum considered agenda item 4, entitled "Implementation of the six mandated areas of the Permanent Forum with reference to the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples". For its consideration of the item, the Forum had before it two notes by the Secretariat entitled "Compilation of information from national human rights institutions" (E/C.19/2018/6) and "Action plan for organizing the 2019 International Year of Indigenous Languages" (E/C.19/2018/8). At its 15th meeting, on 27 April, the Forum considered and adopted its recommendations submitted under that item (see chap. I, sect. B).

121. At its 10th meeting, on 20 April, the Forum considered agenda item 5, entitled "Dialogue with indigenous peoples". At its 15th meeting, the Forum considered and adopted its recommendations submitted under that item (see chap. I, sect. B).

122. At its 12th meeting, on 23 April, the Forum considered agenda item 6, entitled "Dialogue with Member States". At its 15th meeting, the Forum considered and adopted its recommendations submitted under that item (see chap. I, sect. B).

123. At its 11th meeting, on 23 April, the Forum considered agenda item 7, entitled "Dialogue with the agencies, funds and programmes of the United Nations system". At its 15th meeting, the Forum considered and adopted its recommendations submitted under that item (see chap. I, sect. B).

124. At its 3rd, 4th and 8th meetings, on 17 and 19 April, the Forum considered agenda item 8, entitled "Discussion on the theme 'Indigenous peoples' collective rights to lands, territories and resources'". For its consideration of the item, the Forum had before it two notes by the Secretariat entitled "Indigenous peoples' collective rights to lands, territories and resources" (E/C.19/2018/5) and "International expert group meeting on the theme 'Sustainable development in the territories of indigenous peoples'" (E/C.19/2018/7). At its 15th meeting, the Forum considered and adopted its recommendations submitted under that item (see chap. I, sects. A and B).

125. At its 4th meeting, on 17 April, the Forum considered agenda item 9, entitled "2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development". For its consideration of the item, the Forum had before it a note by the Secretariat entitled "Update on indigenous peoples and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development" (E/C.19/2018/2). At its 15th meeting, the Forum considered and adopted its recommendations submitted under that item (see chap. I, sect. B).

126. At its 5th and 6th meetings, on 18 April, the Forum considered agenda item 10, entitled "Dialogue with the Special Rapporteur on the rights of indigenous peoples and the Chair of the Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples". At its

15th meeting, the Forum considered and adopted its recommendations submitted under that item (see chap. I, sect. B).

127. At its 9th meeting, on 20 April, the Forum considered agenda item 11, entitled "Follow-up to the outcome document of the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples". At its 15th meeting, the Forum considered and adopted its recommendations submitted under that item (see chap. I, sect. B).

128. At its 8th meeting, on 19 April, the Forum considered agenda item 12, entitled "Future work of the Permanent Forum, including issues considered by the Economic and Social Council and emerging issues". For its consideration of the item, the Forum had before it a note by the Secretariat entitled "Study to examine conservation and indigenous peoples' human rights" (E/C.19/2018/9). At its 15th meeting, the Forum considered and adopted its recommendations submitted under that item (see chap. I, sect. B).

129. At its 15th meeting, the Forum considered agenda item 13, entitled "Provisional agenda for the eighteenth session". At the same meeting, the Forum considered and adopted a draft decision submitted under that item (see chap. I, sect. A).

Chapter III

Adoption of the report of the Permanent Forum on its seventeenth session

130. At its 15th meeting, on 27 April, the Rapporteur introduced and orally revised the draft decisions and recommendations and the draft report of the Permanent Forum on its seventeenth session.

131. At the same meeting, the Permanent Forum adopted its draft report, as orally revised.

Chapter IV
Organization of the session

A. Opening and duration of the session

132. The Permanent Forum held its seventeenth session at United Nations Headquarters from 16 to 27 April 2018. It held 15 formal meetings, including 5 closed meetings, to consider the items on its agenda.

133. At the 1st meeting, on 16 April, the session was opened by the Assistant Secretary-General for Economic Development. At the opening ceremony, a representative of the Onondaga Nation, Tadodaho Sid Hill, delivered a welcoming address. The President of the General Assembly and the Vice-President of the Economic and Social Council (Saint Vincent and the Grenadines) delivered statements.

134. At the same meeting, the President of the Plurinational State of Bolivia, Evo Morales Ayma, addressed the Forum. Statements were also made by the Chair of the Forum and the Assistant Secretary-General for Economic Development.

B. Attendance

135. Members of the Permanent Forum and representatives of Governments, intergovernmental organizations and bodies, United Nations entities and non-governmental and indigenous organizations attended the session. The list of participants will be published at a later date.

C. Election of officers

136. At its 1st meeting, on 16 April, the Forum elected the following members of the Bureau by acclamation:

Chair:
Mariam Wallet Mohamed Aboubakrine

Vice-Chairs:
Anne Nuorgam
Zhang Xiaoan
Dmitrii Kharakka-Zaitsev
Tarcila Rivera Zea

Rapporteur:
Brian Keane

D. Agenda

137. Also at its 1st meeting, the Forum adopted the provisional agenda contained in document E/C.19/2018/1.

E. Documentation

138. The list of the documents before the Permanent Forum at its seventeenth session will be published at a later date.

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